

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 397

Washington, D. C.

March 28, 1931

DATE SET FOR HEARING ON TENTATIVE STANDARDS

The Food and Drugs Administration has announced that the public hearing on the tentative standards for canned tomatoes, cherries and apricots, formulated under the provisions of the McNary-Mapes amendment to the Food and Drugs Act, will be held on Monday, April 13, at 10.30 a. m., in Room 411, Bieber Building, 1358 B Street, S. W., Washington. For the convenience of those who can not attend the hearing at Washington, a supplemental hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 14, at 2.30 p. m., at the Headquarters of the Western Food and Drug Inspection District, Room 33, U. S. Appraiser's Stores, Sansome and Washington Streets, San Francisco.

These hearings are for the purpose of giving interested parties, whether they be canners, distributors or consumers, an opportunity to discuss and comment upon the tentative standards and make such suggestions for their amendment or modification as may seem proper.

Those who are unable to attend either of these hearings in person are invited to submit written comments on the standards, addressed to the Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D. C. They should reach the Administration not later than April 13.

Following these hearings final consideration will be given by the Department to the formulation of the standards in completed form and they will then be promulgated under the authority of the Secretary. As with the previously announced standards, a period of ninety days will then elapse before they become effective.

The tentative standards for these three products were published in the Information Letter for March 14. The only alteration in the tentative standards as announced on that date is the addition of the spectrophotometer reading for the term "normally colored" as used in the standard for canned tomatoes.

PRODUCTION SURVEY OF TOMATO JUICE AND TOMATO COCKTAILS

The Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce will mail out questionnaires to manufacturers of tomato juice and tomato cocktails during the coming week, asking for facts regarding the production of these commodities for the last four years. This action is taken as a result of a resolution passed by the Tomato Products Section of the National Canners Association during the last convention.

The production of tomato juice and tomato cocktails is known to be increasing at a rapid rate, and it seems very advisable for the industry to learn at the earliest possible moment just what is occurring, and thus be in a better position to govern future operations.

A considerable part of the value of these figures lies in their early publication. All canners will be able to render real assistance by returning the filled-in questionnaires at the earliest possible moment.

STANDARDS ANNOUNCED FOR SUGAR TESTS

The Research Laboratory has announced standards which it will use in 1931 to test the suitability of sugar for canning. It has communicated these standards to sugar manufacturers and furnished them with a statement of the procedure member canners will follow in submitting samples, along with a description of the Laboratory's testing methods. In its announcement the Laboratory states:

"In view of recent work which has established a relation between the bacterial condition of sugar and thermophilic spoilage in non-acid canned products, there has been a growing desire on the part of canners to buy sugar which has been tested for suitability for canning. This tendency has been paralleled by a growing interest in the question within the sugar industry. Various sugar producers have conducted investigational work designed to find and eliminate sources of thermophilic infection. As a result some of them intimate that they will be able to supply sugar manufactured under bacteriological control which will be suitable for canning non-acid products for the season of 1931.

"While the question of standards presents some difficulty, it has been decided to publish methods and values upon which this Laboratory will base its judgment for the season of 1931. The values are based on results of tests on samples taken in the field and tested in the Field Laboratory during the seasons of 1928, 1929 and 1930. It is felt that they are liberal. They are

considered tentative, and for use for 1931. In all probability they will be modified subsequently."

The following is the procedure to be followed by members who buy sugar on specification and request the Laboratory to determine whether the specifications are met:

"One-half pound samples will be taken from *each of five bags or barrels* of the shipment or of the lot in question. These samples will be sent to the Laboratory in clean sealed cans, or other appropriate containers. It is appreciated that the adequacy of this sampling will vary in relation to the size of the shipment or lot, but it is felt that where there is any significant variability in the shipment this fact will become evident in the majority of cases through individual tests on five samples. If subsequent experience shows it to be necessary, the sampling arrangement will be modified to the extent of taking the size of the lot into consideration."

The standards cover the three types of thermophilic spoilage bacteria, and are as follows:

Flat Sour Spores.—For the five samples examined, there shall be a maximum of not more than 75 spores and an average of not more than 50 spores per 10 grams of sugar.

Thermophilic Anaerobic Spores.—These shall be present in not more than three (60 per cent) of the five samples and in any one sample to the extent of not more than four (65+ per cent) tubes.

Sulfide Spoilage Spores.—These shall be present in not more than two (40 per cent) of the five samples and in any one sample to the extent of not more than five spores per 10 grams. This would be equivalent to two colonies in the six inoculated tubes.

INTENDED ACREAGE OF DRY EDIBLE BEANS

The intended acreage of dry edible beans in 1931 is 1.5 per cent less than in 1930, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on March 26. Reductions are reported of 7 per cent in New York, 2 per cent in Michigan, and 5 per cent in Colorado and New Mexico. The intended increase in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming combined is about 5 per cent. The California acreage of beans is expected to be about the same as last year.

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY

With the exception of baked beans, pears and prunes, the exports of canned foods in February were lower than in the corresponding month of last year. The following table, com-

piled from records of the Department of Commerce, shows the comparative figures for the various products:

Articles	February, 1930		February, 1931	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	2,449,485	\$833,801	1,332,272	\$480,236
Beef	204,157	93,656	144,634	70,415
Pork	1,808,040	620,834	836,496	313,156
Sausage	151,968	46,316	150,848	35,689
Other	225,311	72,905	200,294	69,976
Canned vegetables, total	5,587,266	530,757	3,240,895	322,802
Asparagus	951,830	158,203	735,384	116,246
Baked beans, and pork and beans	298,853	25,418	776,367	37,808
Corn	876,123	60,299	278,606	25,003
Peas	796,111	65,043	444,185	40,483
Soups	1,061,738	115,364	556,600	64,183
Tomatoes	422,911	33,797	184,882	14,334
Other	1,179,695	71,739	264,802	24,745
Condensed milk	3,538,510	494,170	1,344,889	230,036
Evaporated milk	5,164,186	488,893	3,775,401	316,808
Canned fruits, total	23,813,483	2,530,696	22,321,563	1,904,269
Apples and applesauce	2,887,103	169,139	1,079,164	46,166
Apricots	2,601,842	245,947	1,460,146	126,082
Loganberries	393,164	45,231	57,527	7,600
Other berries	155,916	19,372	65,816	9,639
Cherries	266,953	33,602	58,477	8,633
Fruits for salad	2,531,982	407,537	2,529,088	340,441
Grapefruit			1,215,464	89,130
Peaches	6,423,965	666,205	5,535,042	429,504
Pears	4,745,355	553,084	7,997,770	605,047
Pineapple	2,395,509	244,158	1,988,000	208,902
Prunes	84,560	12,245	142,060	13,280
Other	1,387,134	134,176	193,000	19,905
Salmon	1,242,469	245,307	1,161,274	204,098
Sardines	11,135,400	767,096	5,272,323	317,769

ORDER MODIFYING PACKERS' DECREE TO BE APPEALED

An appeal by the Department of Justice to the U. S. Supreme Court from the order of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia modifying the packers' consent decree of 1920 in the anti-trust case of United States vs. Swift & Company, Armour & Company, and others, was authorized on March 23 by the Solicitor General, Thomas D. Thacher. The announcement by the Department of Justice states that it is anticipated that this case will be heard in the Supreme Court early in the Fall.

Statutory provisions permit the appeal direct to the U. S. Supreme Court from the order of the trial court, without the necessity of the usual intermediate appeal to the Court of Appeal of the District of Columbia.

CANNED TOMATO AND TOMATO PASTE IMPORTS

Although imports of canned tomatoes in February were greater than in the same months last year, the imports for the first two months of 1931 were nearly 2,000,000 pounds less than

in the corresponding period of 1930. Paste imports were greater in February than in January, but were still below those of a year ago. Statistics for the two months follow:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1930				
January	8,939,178	\$427,845	1,635,369	\$129,824
February	5,834,313	283,425	1,050,583	88,842
Total	14,773,491	711,270	2,685,952	218,666
1931				
January	5,611,727	198,377	796,143	62,736
February	7,375,831	235,570	873,380	75,763
Total	12,987,558	433,947	1,669,523	138,499

CANNED MILK PRODUCTION

Production of evaporated milk during February was 19 per cent heavier than during the same month a year earlier, and also showed a seasonal increase of over 4 per cent, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This seasonal production increase was rather heavier than usual, comparing with an actual decrease of 1.7 per cent from January to February last year, and a 1.5 per cent increase during the same period in 1929.

Despite the sharply increased production during February, stocks of evaporated milk showed further reductions on March 1, both in comparison with the same date a year ago and the month previous, the deficit being over 11 per cent and nearly 13 per cent, respectively. Compared with 5-year average stocks, however, March 1, 1931, supplies were still 35 per cent heavier.

Condensed milk production during February was 15 per cent lighter than during the same month a year ago, and was also 11 per cent lighter than during January. Stocks on March 1 were 24 per cent lighter than on even date in 1930, and nearly 9 per cent lighter than on February 1.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The outstanding features of the weather for the week ended March 24, as affecting agriculture, were the substantial rains in the south Atlantic states from Virginia to Alabama, and also in the Northwest between the Lake region and Rocky Mountains. Both areas were needing moisture, which has been rather generously supplied by the recent rainfall, according to the weekly report of the U. S. Weather Bureau. In other sections of the eastern United States precipitation was also helpful in maintaining top soil moisture, especially in the Ohio Valley and middle Atlantic area, but in these sections the soil, below a moderate surface depth, continues extremely dry, with wells and

springs largely unrelieved. There are yet reports of serious shortage of water for domestic purposes, with hauling necessary in a good many places.

Beneficial rains occurred in the Pacific Northwest, which were helpful to the wheat crop, but in south Pacific sections, especially southern California, the range and dry-land farms are showing the need of moisture. It is still dry in the eastern Great Basin.

TRUCK CROP MARKETS

Orange shipments required 2,675 cars, apples 1,330, and lettuce and cabbage about 1,100 each during the week ended March 21, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Grapefruit exceeded 1,020 cars for the week, almost wholly from Florida. Shipments of grapefruit from that state were 45 per cent heavier than during late March of 1930. Light arrivals were reported from Porto Rico and Cuba. With respect to movement of oranges, Florida increased to 1,115 cars, while California decreased to 1,560. Output of oranges was nearly double that of a year ago. Mixed-citrus shipments from Florida decreased recently to 360 cars, but California increased to 45.

Shipments of beets registered a decrease, but carrots moved in heavier volume. Cauliflower movement from California increased to 425 cars, while Oregon originated 45 cars.

Asparagus forwardings from California jumped to 370 cars last week, or more than twice as many as last season. Some Georgia asparagus had begun to move. Imperial Valley green pea shipments increased to 110 cars, and other parts of California started 45 cars to market. With 360 cars of spinach from Texas and 40 from Virginia, total movement of this crop increased to 415 cars. First cars of snap beans moved from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Florida originated 100 cars of beans.

Production of early strawberries in five states is forecast at 54,667,000 quarts, or only 4 per cent greater than last season and 14 per cent below the huge crop of 1929. A decrease of 9 per cent in acreage is offset by higher yields in all states except Florida. Both acreage and production are expected to be about one-fourth greater than the five-year average. Louisiana has a large crop of 31,200,000 quarts, compared with 28,290,000 last year. The shipment increased greatly to 210 cars and were one-third more than during the same week last season.

Shipments of apples were maintained rather steadily at 1,330 cars for the week. Western movement increased to 915,

while eastern output decreased to 415 cars. Oregon was credited with 60 cars, but Washington increased again to 800. New York State was down to 245 cars, many of which were destined to export markets. The Virginias originated 90 cars.

Cabbage shipments began to move from South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana and southern California. Florida last week increased to 275 cars and Texas to 650 cars. New York increased temporarily to 105 cars for the week, but the season there is about finished.

Total shipments of 27 leading products last week increased to 19,010 cars, and were 3,300 heavier than last spring.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Mar. 15-21 1931	Mar. 8-14 1931	Mar. 16-22 1930	Total this season thru March 21	Total last season thru March 22	Total last season
Apples, total	1,329	1,313	1,200	101,946	94,061	102,801
Eastern states	412	486	546	41,428	48,015	51,439
Western states	917	827	654	60,518	46,046	51,362
Asparagus	370	149	167	632	276	2,789
Beans, snap:						
Domestic	106	84	76	2,334	2,606	9,552
Imports	7	3	6	37	23	31
Beets	61	93		696		
Cabbage:						
1931 season	946	713	585	7,739	5,704	37,896
1930 season	113	116	1	37,896	44,188	44,201
Carrots:						
1931 season	258	184	302	4,712	5,009	11,828
1930 season	52	79	45	11,828	11,826	12,149
Cauliflower	400	350	393	8,424	7,941	9,535
Pears	63	62	75	28,321	20,844	21,147
Peas, green:						
Domestic	162	135	86	1,471	893	6,800
Imports	5	11	18	1,337	2,110	2,118
Peppers:						
Domestic	28	59	58	1,150	447	2,795
Imports	11	20	17	260	343	477
Spinach	415	346	724	6,886	6,765	9,638
Strawberries	206	86	162	1,096	1,448	10,642
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	85	122	368	1,678	1,609	33,488
Imports	310	308	451	3,602	4,328	7,039
Vegetables, mixed:						
Domestic	839	768	714	8,569	7,986	31,035
Imports	15	6	17	200	239	350

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

For the week ending March 21 weekly figures available to the Department of Commerce showed an increase of bank debits outside New York City of 14.4 per cent from the preceding week, but they were still under the corresponding period in 1930.

Interest rates for both time and call money decreased from the week previous, and both were materially lower than a year ago.

The number of business failures, as reported by R. G. Dun

and Co., continued to decrease in respect to the previous week, and were under the same week last year.

Wholesale prices, as measured by the composite index, showed no change for the third consecutive week, but were considerably under the corresponding week last year. Prices of agricultural products declined fractionally from the week previous, but prices of non-agricultural products continued the upward trend of the past few weeks.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended March 14	734,262	267,894	220,325	246,043
Preceding week	723,534	266,579	220,465	236,490
Corresponding week, 1930	881,308	356,892	252,271	272,145
Corresponding week, 1929	958,001	382,387	260,959	315,255

MEAT CONSUMPTION DECREASED IN 1930

Total production and consumption of meats in the United States last year was the smallest since 1922, and per capita consumption of meats was the smallest since 1919, according to estimates by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The bureau places total production of dressed meat, not including lard, at 16,394,000,000 pounds in 1930 as compared with 16,803,000,000 pounds in 1929, and 16,295,000,000 pounds in 1922. All of the decrease in 1930 as compared with 1929 was in pork.

The 1930 production of beef was 6,076,000,000 pounds compared with 6,065,000,000 pounds in 1929; veal 833,000,000 pounds against 816,000,000 pounds in 1929; lamb and mutton 820,000,000 pounds against 699,000,000 pounds; and pork 8,665,000,000 pounds against 9,223,000,000 pounds.

CONTENTS

Page	Page
Date set for hearing on tentative standards	2405
Production survey of tomato juice and tomato cocktails	2406
Standards announced for sugar tests	2406
Intended acreage of dry edible beans	2407
Canned food exports in February	2407
Order modifying packers' decree to be appealed	2408
Canned tomato and tomato paste imports	2408
Canned milk production	2409
Weather conditions	2409
Truck crop markets	2410
Business conditions	2411
Meat consumption decreased in 1930	2412